

GARY LOCKE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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December 15, 2003

Bob Lohn, Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
7600 Sandpoint Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115

Dear Mr. Lohn:

As a follow-up to the recommendation made last June by the governors of Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and me, please find enclosed *An Outline for Salmon Recovery Plans* (Outline), in which key recovery plan elements are identified.

In September 1999, Washington's natural resource cabinet agencies released the report, *A Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon: Extinction in Not an Option*. It is a blueprint for what needs to be done to recover salmon in our state. In response to NOAA Fisheries federal designation of Evolutionarily Significant Units, regional salmon recovery organizations have been established in Washington to develop draft recovery plans. Five of these are now structured with boards of local citizens, elected officials, and tribes working with the state's salmon recovery and watershed planning groups, as well as the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) sub-basin planning process.

The Outline, which has been submitted for public review, was developed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in close collaboration with your agency, my office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, tribes, and state agencies. I am advised that it is consistent with guidance from NOAA Fisheries to the Council, so that sub-basin plans may be incorporated into the larger-scale recovery plans.

Providing timely guidance for recovery plans is important to achieving our mutual goal of restoring salmon and steelhead, and I request your timely endorsement of this Outline. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Locke".
Gary Locke
Governor

Enclosure



cc: Governor Dirk Kempthorne, Idaho State
Governor Judy Martz, Montana State
Governor Ted Kulongoski, Oregon State
Chairs, regional organizations
Jeff Koenings, Director, WDFW